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# INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Reaction against the dismissal of Frederic Joliot-Curie was evidenced in the formal declaration signed by all official members of the Commissariat stating that the government's action was "regrettable" in view of the high qualities of Joliot and his effectiveness as Haut Commissaire. Even scientists holding political views diametrically opposed to those of Joliot have stated that they doubt that in a crisis he would act in conformity with Communist directives in spite of his apparent public submission to their discipline.
2. There has been increasing resistance in French scientific circles to the serious consideration being given Jean Thibaud for the position of Haut Commissaire. Several influential members of the Haut Commissariat have stated to source that if he were appointed practically the entire personnel of the French Atomic Energy Commission would resign. These individuals, who include Francis Perrin and Bertrand Goldschmidt, have indicated to the government the desirability of leaving the post unfilled for the next few months, at least until January 1951 when all the original five-year contracts held by personnel in the Commissariat will expire.\*\*
3. [redacted] states, however, that it is generally believed that Thibaud, if appointed, would conduct a ruthless and necessary purge of Communist elements in atomic energy research centers. Joliot's principal assistants, Lew Kowarski, Jules Gueron and Bertrand Goldschmidt, would be among the first to be dropped in view of the fact that they are personal adversaries of Thibaud. With the dismissal of these three individuals source believes that the Communists would lose their influence in atomic research circles.\*\*\*
4. A further individual who has recently been rumored as a possible eventual successor to Joliot is Andre Lichnerowicz, mathematician and "charge de mission" in the cabinet of Robert Prigent, Secretary of State to the President du Conseil. Lichnerowicz recently accompanied Prigent on a surprise visit to French Atomic Energy installations.

### Comments

\* [REDACTED] which mentioned Thibaud among others as a possible successor to Joliot.

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\*\* See [REDACTED] for Ferrin's opinion in greater detail.

\*\*\* Lew Kowarski is the only one of these individuals who has been reported as a possible Communist. Gueron, although an anti-Communist, was reputedly so under the influence of Joliot that he appointed Communists in his section in order to placate Joliot.

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